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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 10 Dec. 1951

SUBJECT The Livestock Situation in Czechoslovakia

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1. In March 1950 the Czechoslovak Government ordered that all State Estates (Statni statky)(SS) must keep a stock of cattle amounting to a total of 20,000 head. In the autumn of 1950, this number was increased to 40,000 by order of the Government. The State Estates are to keep this stock at the same level, regardless of the loss of cattle made available for slaughtering. The stock of pigs formerly was fixed at 200,000 and was later, in the autumn of 1950, increased to 330,000 in connection with the establishment of large pig-feeding stations called "Gigant". However, the State Estates did not succeed in attaining the prescribed number. The actual stock of pigs numbers 230,000 with an average weight of 100 kg.
2. Independent farmers and Agricultural Cooperatives (Jednotne zemedelske druzstvo)(JZD) are not under the obligation to maintain a certain number of cattle. The State Estates own about half of the total number of cattle in Czechoslovakia. The reason for the existing pork shortage lies in the fact that the total stock of sows is 47,000 below the number called for in the Government plan. When Agricultural Cooperatives were established, Local National Committees allowed farmers who promised to join the Cooperatives to slaughter sows, which resulted in the great shortage of shoats. In the spring of 1951, the Ministry of Food Industry issued a decree prohibiting the slaughter of sows but by then it was too late. It will take a long time before the number of pigs again reaches the normal level, since independent farmers do not let the sows become fully grown and the Agricultural Cooperatives, because of their small number, cannot handle the breeding of a sufficient number of sows.
3. The shortage of shoats causes difficulties for the "Gigant" pig-feeding stations which cannot fulfill their plan. For example the "Gigant" in Smirice (051/ G 72) has only 20 percent of

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the number of shoats called for in the plan. Aside from the great shortage of sows and shoats, a further factor explaining the insufficient number of pigs is the poor construction of the pig-feeding stations, which were built by the State Estates with great publicity and in a great hurry. They were so cold in winter that it was not possible to utilize them to full capacity. In the coming winter, feeding is to be undertaken on a larger scale, but only after reconstruction estimated to cost 60 million Kcs has taken place.

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